

Amendments to the Specification:

On Page 4, please replace the second full paragraph (lines 13-26) with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is also well-known that collagen displays the best biotolerability in the wound healing process as it has a natural fibrillary structure (US 4378017, 1983). The quarternary biopolymer structures including proteins are stabilized by a hydrate shell to polar groups of polymers. If there is no such interaction between water and polar groups of biopolymers, the structure of the biopolymer is impaired when water is removed (drying process). Some low-molecular substances, so-called cosmotropic agents, are able to stabilize the hydrate shell present and hence to maintain the macromolecular structures during the drying process and afterwards. Research is being carried out into stabilizers such as this and their applications (~~Crow L.M.~~ Crowe, J.H. et al. Interaction of sugar with membranes: Biochim. et Biophys. Acta, 1988, V.947, 367-384. Carpenter J. F. et al. The mechanism of cryoprotection of proteins by solutes; Cryobiology 1988, V.25, 244-255). Monosaccharides and polysaccharides are traditionally used in the freeze-drying of proteins. It has been shown that these are not suitable in the manufacture of sponges according to the invention.--

On Pages 4-5, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Non-toxic, biotolerable chitosan is particularly interesting because of its special properties: the cationic polysaccharide chitosan forms ionic complexes with anionic molecules and polymers. It is used in the immobilization of a number of therapeutic and biologically active substances, e.g. the immobilization of proteins and microorganisms or in the binding of bacterial endotoxins (~~Davidova~~ Davydova VN et al., Biochemistry (RU), 2000, 65 (9), 1082-90).--

On Pages 20-21, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 20-21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The resultant solution was divided into two equal parts. 2.5 ml 1.25 % glutaraldehyde solution was added to one part. 0.3 g polyvinylalcohol in 20 ml water was added to the other part. Then 2.5 ml 1.25 % glutaraldehyde solution was added. The resultant materials were frozen at -35 °C and freeze-dried. SOD in a concentration of 0.6 % of the dry weight or 0.1 mg per cm² was detected in the prepared wound dressings. The specific density was 0.014 +/- 0.001 g per cm³. The water adsorption capacity was 7100 +/- 500 %. The wound dressings containing polyvinyl alcohol had uniform and somewhat smaller pores. The elimination of SOD was

determined after determining the activity of SOD by the delay in quercitine oxidation (~~Cao GH~~ Glazer, A.N., et al. Methods Enzymol. 1990, 186, 161-168). The wound dressings containing polyvinyl alcohol showed a delayed elimination of SOD upon rehydration in water (Fig. 3).--